(b) and (c) The Member Countries of Interpol were exhorted that the Red Comer Notice of Interpol which is a formal request for tracing and extraditing a wanted criminal should be made legally enforceable through legislation in this regard by the Interpol and its respective member countries.

The mutual police cooperation between the member states in matters of terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, enforceability of Red Corner Notices of Interpol and several other important matters like communication PROJECT ATLAS (which is the latest communication system based on Internet Technology) and ASF (Automated Search Facility) to the Interpol data bank for Interpol Member Countries and also transmission of important data like photographs, fingerprints etc. were discussed.

As the matters involve the sovereign member countries of Interpol, the results depend upon the political will and cooperation among the member countries to make joint endeavors to fight the menace of global terrorism and other organised crimes.

Indian passports in possession of ISI

1291. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian passports have been recently found in possession of the terrorists and the people connected with the ISI;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any investigation in this matter;

(c) if so, the number of such cases brought to Government's notice during the current year and the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) In the current year, one case has been brought to the notice of the Government where a passport has been issued to an applicant who is suspected of being a terrorist. The passport has since been revoked.

Controversial remark of General Loidolt

1292. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent statement of General Loidolt, Chief of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan calling Kashmir a tormented country and accusing both India and Pakistan of playing political games;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the details of the statement; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government felt that these remarks were uncalled for and took up the matter with the UN. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, under whose jurisdiction the UNMOGIP operates, disavowed the remarks made by the CMO and conveyed apologies on behalf of the UN Secretary General. Subsequently, on November 1, the Deputy Spokesman of the UN Secretary General, in response to a question from the press, said that CMOs were not allowed to make political comments without clearance from Headquarters; the General had been reminded about the extent of his competence; and that [J] his statement did not reflect the views of the Secretary General. The CMO was summoned by the Government and was told in clear terms that his remarks were completely unwarranted and unacceptable. The CMO, in a letter addressed to the Director General of Military Operations, Army Headquarters, Government of India, conveyed apologies for his misbehaviour.

Resumption of Nuclear tests by USA

1293. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent report in the press that the USA is considering resumption of Nuclear tests is a matter of concern and could trigger off similar actions by other countries; and

(b) if so, what would be the impact of this step on the Test Ban Treaty and other steps which have been taken over the years to prevent proliferation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government has seen media reports to this effect. However, the United States has officially stated recently in the course of its explanation of vote on